

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
DECEMBER, 2004 - FEBRUARY, 2005

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period December, 2004 - February, 2005. I've compiled observations for species which are listed as **Sporadic, Rare, Accidental, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist. A "?win" indicates a species which is documented for the park but not in the winter season.

After a wet fall season, December came and went with very little rainfall registered in the park and generally mild temperatures, except for a deep cold front that arrived around the Christmas holidays. Several wet cold fronts pushed through in January and February that pulled rainfall totals up to and surpassing the previous winter's levels. At this writing, spring annual wildflowers are providing quite a show, all sparked by the abundant rainfall fall and winter rainfall. A comparison of current precipitation totals through February with the same period last year (+ or -) illustrates the recovery from the early winter dry spell: Panther Junction; 1.51" (+0.27"), Chisos Basin; 1.56" (+0.00"), Rio Grande Village; 0.86" (-0.54"), Castolon; 1.51" (+0.86"), and Persimmon Gap; 1.56" (+1.12").

Participants in the annual Christmas Counts (December 28-29) noted good to excellent food crop conditions, but total species on both counts were lower than average. The counts did reveal that several species that occur here in the winter either sporadically or accidentally (ash-throated flycatcher, house wren, American robin, sage thrashers, black-throated gray warbler, and clay colored sparrows) were present this year in unusually high numbers, a trend that was maintained throughout the season. The highlight of the Chisos Circle count was an unexpected **clay-colored robin** at Sam Nail Ranch, spotted by McCormick and Kelly a day before the actual count. According to Mark Lockwood, this is the first documented Trans-Pecos record. Subsequent observers have also documented the robin, which apparently is still present at this writing. Clay-colored robin, prior to these reports, was on the hypothetical list, and will now move to the main list.

Another highlight for the season is the continued presence of a pair of **ruddy ground-doves** at Cottonwood Campground. First reported on November 11, 2004 by Carpenter and Laidlaw, the pair is still lurking around the campground, usually reported in the company of Inca and common ground-doves, and staying well hidden in the mesquite thickets surrounding the perimeter of the camp area. This review species was last documented in the park in 1992.

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<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Snow goose	1	01/08	Lajitas	Laird Considine Mark Flippo	acc.
Ross's goose	1	01/08	Lajitas	Considine, Flippo	acc.
Hooded merganser	2f	01/08	Lajitas	Considine, Flippo	acc.
Ruddy duck	2m,f		Lajitas	Considine, Flippo	acc.
Wood duck	1m	01/28	RGV-Daniels Rch.	Daniel Paez	rare
	2	02/23	Hot Springs Cyn.	Greg Levandoski	early
American bittern	1	12/16	RGV-Nature Trail	Jim Hines	? win
	1	01/21	RGV-Nature Trail	???	? win
	1	02/07	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	? win
Great egret	1	01/08	Lajitas	Considine, Flippo	rare
White-tailed kite	1	01/30	Marufo Vega Trail	David Elkowitz	acc.
Gray hawk	1	12/12	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Lockwood	acc.
	2	12/28	Cottonwood Camp.	Margo & Dave Engwer	acc.
	1	01/28	Cottonwood Camp.	Keith Doran	acc.
	2	02/01-28	Cottonwood Camp.	Many observers	acc.
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	02/20-21	Terlingua Abajo	Rich Kostecke, Brandon Best Anthony Hewetson	? win
	1	02/27	Terlingua Abajo	Mark Lockwood	? win
Broad-winged Hawk	1	02/26	Johnson's Ranch	David Elkowitz	early
Virginia rail	2-3	01/08	Lajitas	Considine, Flippo	rare
Black-necked Stilt	1	1/18	Terlingua Abajo	Susan Lily	? win

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Ruddy ground-dove*	1f	12/12	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Lockwood	acc.
	2m,f	01/02	Cottonwood Camp	Daniel Peak	acc.
	2m,f	01/08	Cottonwood Camp.	Charles Lyon Kreg Ellzen	acc.
	1	01/13	Cottonwood Camp.	John O'Neill	acc.
	2m,f	01/14	Cottonwood Camp.	Daniel Leavitt	acc.
	2m,f	02/19	Cottonwood Camp	Kostecke,Best, Hewetson	acc.
* Texas Review Species: Reports to TBRC:Lockwood. Accepted 5/05.					
Burrowing owl	2	12/20-21	N. Rosillos Rd	Jim & Barb Hines	acc.
	3	01/24	N. Rosillos Rd.	J&B Hines	acc.
Long-eared owl	5	02/21	Terlingua Abajo	Kostecke, Best, Hewetson	rare
Short-eared owl	1	02/22-23	N. Rosillos Rd	J&B Hines	rare
Anna's Hummingbird	3-4	12/01-01/12	Panther Junction	M.Flippo,	rare
	6	12/28	CBC-Chisos Circle	Several observers	rare
	1	12/29	CBC-RGV Circle	Flippo/Stinnet	rare
Gray flycatcher	1	01/08	Cottonwood Camp.	C. Lyon, K.Ellzen	rare
	1	02/16	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
	3	02/19	Cottonwood Camp.	Kostecke, Best, Hewetson	rare
Gray vireo	1	01/27	Hot Springs	Stan Riome	rare
	1	02/19	Burro Mesa Pouroff	Kostecke, Best Hewetson	rare

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Carolina wren	2	01/26	Santa Elena Cyn	Daniel Paez	rare
	1	02/06	Sam Nail Ranch	Dan Leavitt	rare
	2	02/06	Santa Elena Cyn	Dan Leavitt	rare
	1	02/19	Sam Nail Ranch	Kostecke, Best Hewetson	rare
	1	02/20	Terlingua Abajo	Kostecke, et al	rare
	1	02/27	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Lockwood	rare
	1	02/27	Terlingua Abajo	Mark Lockwood	rare
Sedge wren	1	02/28	Rio Grande Vill.	Nancy Docherty	acc.
Mountain bluebird	1	02/10	Chisos Basin	Laura Dickinson	spo.
Clay-colored Robin*	1	12/27	Sam Nail Ranch	Kathy McCormick Catfish Kelly	? win
	1	01/08	Sam Nail Ranch	Don Burt, C. Lyon, K. Ellzen	? win
	1	01/09	Sam Nail Ranch	Dan Leavitt John Wenger	? win
	1	01/18	Sam Nail Ranch	Dan Leavitt	? win
	1	02/03	Sam Nail Ranch	David Elkowitz	? win
	1	02/19	Sam Nail Ranch	Kostecke et al	? win
	1	02/27	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Lockwood	? win

***Currently listed as hypothetical on park checklist for spring season.**

American robin 222 12/28 CBC-Chisos Circle several observers **

**Unusually high numbers

Gray catbird	1	01/19	Persimmon Gap	Doug Duncan	rare
	4	01/24	Rio Grande Vill.	Nancy Hannay Kay Piper	rare

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Nashville warbler	1	12/12	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Lockwood	? win
Black-throated Gray warbler	1	12/12	Rio Grande Vill.	Carolyn & Dale Ohl	acc.
	1	12/12	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Lockwood	acc.
	1f	12/24	Campground Cyn.	France Davis	acc.
	1	12/31	Rio Grande Vill.	E. Matijevich	acc.
	2m	02/19	Cottonwood Camp.	Kostecke et al	early?
	1	02/20	Rio Grande Vill.	Greg Levandoski	early?
	1m	02/23	Cottonwood Camp.	Considine, Flippo	early?
	1	02/27	Cottonwood Camp.	Stephen Munzinger	early?
Townsend's warb.	1m	01/10	Cattail Cyn.	Don Burt	spo.
Wilson's warbler	1	02/19	Cottonwood Camp	Kostecke et al	early
Sage sparrow	2	12/29	CBC-RGV Circle	Flippo/Stinnet	spo.
	1	02/18	Paint Gap	Kostecke et al.	late
Le Conte's spar.	1	01/30	Chisos Basin	Keith Doran	acc.
Fox sparrow	3*	02/19	Sam Nail Ranch	Kostecke et al	spo
* One reported as slate-colored race, rare in Texas.					
Dark-eyed junco (Slate-colored)	15	12/28	CBC-Chisos Circle	several observers	rare
Painted bunting	2f	12/12	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Lockwood	? win
Varied bunting	1	02/11	Chisos Basin	Tom & Dory Ramsay	spo.
Orchard oriole	1f	02/22	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Mark Flippo	early
Hooded oriole	1f	01/28	RGV-Daniels Rch	Daniel Paez	acc.
Cassin's finch	6	12/29	CBC-Chisos Circle	????	spo.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
MARCH - MAY 2005

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period March 1 - May 31. I've compiled only those observations for species which are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist. A "?spr" indicates a species which is documented for the park but not in the spring season.

After a wet late winter, March and April dried up considerably, and May entered in typical fashion with high temperatures. Not until late May did rainfall occur, bringing totals up somewhat, but still far short of last year's record rains. Year to date precipitation, as compared to ytd totals through May 2004 (+ or -) is as follows: Panther Junction; 2.82 " (-2.63"), Chisos Basin; 2.97" (-5.30"), Rio Grande Village; 2.25" (-0.35"), Castolon; 2.34" (-1.53"), and Persimmon Gap; 2.82" (-2.30").

In spite of the lack of rain during the spring, the previous winter rains sparked an excellent wildflower bloom, particularly the ocotillos, and food/cover conditions in general were very good. During what is normally the peak of migration, high winds, smoke from fires in Mexico, and the above mentioned conditions perhaps resulted in a dispersed and fast-moving migration front. Hummingbirds were hard to pinpoint this year (one male Lucifer in Blue Creek saved the day for many birders this year), migrant warblers were very slim, and the overall migration was somewhat lackluster. This is not to say however, that the Big bend didn't see some very interesting birds during the spring.

A new species was added to the park checklist on March 28, when Gary Clark spotted an odd gull on the Rio Grande. Clark captured the gull on his digital camera, obtaining several excellent images of a juvenile **black-legged kittiwake** moving into first summer plumage. A first record for the park, black-legged kittiwake has occurred casually elsewhere in the Trans-Pecos, but only in the late fall/winter seasons.

An even more exciting find, echoing the announcement of the rediscovery of ivory-billed woodpecker in Arkansas, was the rediscovery of **Montezuma quail** in the Chisos Mountains. Last year I reported that TPWD biologist Dave Holdermann found what he considered to be definitive sign of Montezuma quail on the South Rim, but never actually saw the birds. This spring TPWD biologist Sylvestre Sorola returned to the South Rim and was able to call up at least two males. Two weeks later Sorola, Holdermann, and park biologist Raymond Skiles returned and captured on film one male, saw another, and heard calls that might indicate the males were paired with females.

Where the quails came from remains a mystery at this point. They could be remnants of the Arizona covey transplanted to the park in the 1970s. Another possibility is that, like black bears in the 80s, they are "surplus" birds from populations in Mexico, who traveled across the desert during the recent wet years. A third possibility suggested by the TPWD biologists is that the quail have always been here, just overlooked because of their secretive nature. Regardless of their origin, their presence speaks to the resiliency of life, and the ability of natural systems to heal.

Other highlights for the spring include the preliminary findings of a Colima warbler survey performed May 6-7 in and around the Chisos Mountains. Some thirteen volunteers counted 79 Colima warblers over the two day period, in line with the last survey performed in 2000, when 78 territories were verified. During the survey, Kelly Cotton reported seeing and hearing two **buff-breasted flycatchers**, a species that has been reported but not yet fully documented for the park. A second, independent report two weeks later adds fuel to the speculation. At this writing, more detailed reports on the observations are awaited for review by the TBRC.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
MARCH - MAY 2005

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Gambel's quail	2	5/03	Dodson Trail	Kelly Cotton	acc.
	3	5/18	Rte 12, MP9	Owen & Alicia Martin	acc.
Montezuma quail*	1-2m	5/14	South Rim Chisos	Sylvestre Sorola	acc?
	2-3m	5/28	South Rim Chisos	S.Sorola,Raymond Skiles, Dave Holdermann	acc?
*First documentation of this species in park since late 1970s. Last reported 1983.					
Least bittern	1m	5/23	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
	2m,f	5/30	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
Gray hawk	2*	3/01-5/31	Cottonwood Camp	Many observers	unc.
*nesting pair					
Common black-hawk	1	3/20	Rio Grande Vill.	Dan Leavitt	rare
	2*	3/27-5/31	Rio Grande Vill.	Many observers	rare
* At same nest area used in 2004 season, but utilizing a rebuilt nest last occupied in 2003. Area near nest closed off to prevent unnecessary intrusion. Hawks on nest with eggs (?) from ~5/13.					
Broad-winged Hawk	1	4/28	Rio Grande Vill.	Jon Dunn	rare
Virginia rail	1	4/28	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Bryan & Josef Hale	rare
Common moorhen	1	5/01	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
Black-legged Kittiwake*	1	3/28	Rio Grande-near San Vicente Xing	Gary Clark	new

***Photo documentation of a juvenile bird entering first summer plumage. 1st park record.**

Barn owl	1	3/09	9 Point Draw	Rob Dean	rare
Flammulated owl	1	3/23	Boot Cyn 3-4	Justin & Devin Bosler	rare
	1	4/19	Boot Canyon	M.J. Wigginton	rare

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Burrowing owl	1	3/04	Rte 12, MP6	Rob & Angie Dean	rare
	1	4/08	Rte 11, MP15	Dan Leavitt	rare
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1f	5/01	RGV-campground	Mark Flippo	rare
Buff-breasted Flycatcher	2*	5/04	Colima Trail	Kelly Cotton	hyp.
	1*	5/17	Laguna Mdw. Tr.	Harold Merriman	hyp.
*Texas Review Species: Report to TBRC:Lockwood. Hypothetical in park. Pending review.					
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	1*	4/29	Colima Trail	Pete Hosner Ken Behrens	rare
*Texas Review Species: Reports to TBRC:Lockwood. Pending review					
Black-capped Vireo	1m	4/15	Window Trail	Paula Kennedy	rare
	2m,f	4/22	Window Trail	P.D. Hulce	rare
	1m	4/27	Window Trail	Bryan & Josef Hale	rare
	1m	4/28	Window Trail	Clay & Joyce Holland	rare
	1m	4/30	Laguna Mdw Tr.	Leo Miller	rare
	1m	5/19	Basin Road MP5.5	Mark Flippo	rare
	1m	5/19	Green Gulch MP3.5	Mark Flippo	rare
	1m	5/29	Laguna Mdw Tr.	Al & Bryan Guarente	rare
Gray vireo	1	3/03	Equipaje Spring	Greg Levandoski	unc.
	Many	4/01-5/31	Blue Creek	Many observers	unc.
Cassin's vireo	1	5/08	Pinnacles Pass	Jan & Will Risser	rare
Purple martin	1	4/28	RGV-Nature Trail	Bryan & Josef Hale	acc.
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	3/17	South Rim-Chisos	Greg Levandoski	spo.
	1f	4/25	Rio Grande Vill.	Dan Leavitt	spo.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Carolina Wren	1	3/22	Cottonwood Camp.	Robert Hill	rare
	1	4/13	Santa Elena Cyn	Kathleen & Chris Demers	rare
	1	4/29	Santa Elena Cyn	P.Hosner, K.Behrens	rare
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	3/17	South Rim-Chisos	Greg Levandoski	spo.
	2	3/28	Colima Trail	Cheryl & Panos Kanes	spo.
Gray catbird	1	3/12	Lajitas	Kym Beckwith, Laird Considine, M Flippo	rare
Sprague's pipit	1	3/02	Ernst Tinaja	J.S. Munzinger	acc.
Yellow warbler	2	3/22	Cottonwood Camp.	J&D Bosler	early
Hermit warbler	1m	3/24	Boot Canyon	J&D Bosler	early
Prothonotary warb.	1	4/28	RGV Nature Trail	Bryan & Josef Hale	acc.
Painted redstart	3	3/23	Boot Canyon	Chris Merkord Marissa Ahlering	spo.
	1	3/28	Boot Canyon	Greg Levandoski	spo.
	2	4/14	Boot Spring	K&C Demers	spo.
	1	4/26	Boot Canyon	G.R. Wheaton	spo.
	1	4/27	Boot Spring	Jon Dunn	spo.
	1	4/30	Boot Spring	Mark Flippo	spo.
	2-3	5/19	Boot Canyon	Steve Mayes	spo.
	3*	5/31	Upper Pine Cyn	Brain Gibbons	spo.
*One adult feeding two juveniles.					
Dark-eyed junco (Slate-colored)	1m	3/07	Santa Elena Cyn	Martin Reid	rare
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1m	5/09	Cottonwood Camp.	Jan & Will Risser	rare
Lazuli bunting	2m	4/30	Boot Springs	Mark Flippo	rare
Common grackle	1m	4/22	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
	1m	4/28	RGV-Nature Trail	Bryan & Josef Hale	rare

Baltimore oriole	1m	5/07	Cottonwood Camp.	N. Martin	acc.
Purple finch	1m	3/29	Ernst Tinaja	Jan & Ed Reynolds	acc.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
JUNE - JULY 2005

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period June 1 - July 31. I've compiled only those observations for species that are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist. A "?sum" indicates a species which is documented for the park but not in the summer season.

In contrast to the past two summer seasons in the Big Bend region, the summer of 2005 returned to a typical hot and dry regime. July in particular brought very warm temperatures and very little rain until the end of the month when one storm on the 27th dropped nearly a third of the year to date total precipitation. Rainfall totals throughout the park continue to lag behind last year's record rainfall, and this is especially pronounced in the Chisos Mountains. Year to date precipitation as compared to ytd totals through July 2004 + or -) is as follows: Panther Junction; 7.27" (-5.23"), Chisos Basin; 5.94" (-9.56"), Rio Grande Village; 3.93" (-2.97"), and Castolon; 4.24" (-2.84"). Persimmon Gap; 4.38" (-6.18").

A nice follow-up to the spring season rediscovery of Montezuma quail on the south rim of the Chisos was an observation of two males in the same location on June 20. Also following up on spring observations was a report of a small covey of Gambel's quail in early June along the Ross Maxwell Scenic drive. The park is at the extreme eastern edge of their range, and it appears that in the wake of good rainy seasons, they push further into range of the more common scaled quail, only to retreat again as drier conditions return.

Only one review species was reported during the period. **White-eared hummingbirds** were reported several times during the season, the earliest report that of Brain Gibbons, who discovered and photographed a lone female deep in the lower Boot Canyon drainage on June 2. The early date is suggestive of possible breeding, but no evidence supports this to date. Conspicuously absent this year was dusky-capped flycatcher - no summer reports of this small *Myiarchus* for the first time in four years.

Colima warblers and painted redstarts had an excellent summer season in the high Chisos, with many juvenile birds of both species foraging in the deeper drainages of the mountains. This is the third year in a row that redstarts have nested in the park. Other warbler highlights include a Wilson's warbler on June 1 (either very late spring or very early fall migrant), a northern waterthrush on July 8 (early fall migrant?), and an unusual black & white warbler on July 18.

Finally, the common black-hawk pair at Rio Grande Village apparently failed to successfully fledge any young this season, disappointing news after last year's record of two fledglings. In contrast, the nesting pair of gray hawks at Cottonwood campground fledged two young this year.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
JUNE - JULY 2005

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Gambel's quail	6	6/05	Ross Maxwell Jctn	Les Hull	acc.
Montezuma Quail	2m	6/20	Southwest Rim	Benjamin Wardwell	acc.
American White Pelican	8	6/09	Rte 12	Richard Gibbons	acc.
Gray hawk	4*	6/21	Cottonwood Camp.	Many observers	unc.
* Adults with 2 fledglings.					
Common black-hawk	2	6/1-30	Rio Grande Vill.	Many observers	rare
	2*	7/1-31	Rio Grande Vill.	Many observers	rare
* No evidence of nestlings.					
Groove-billed ani	1	6/08	Cottonwood Camp.	Patsy Inglet	rare
White-eared Hummingbird	1f*	6/02	Lower Boot Canyon	Brian Gibbons	acc.
	1m*	6/24	Boot Canyon	Allison Leavitt	acc.
	1f"	7/02	Boot Rock Overlook	Brian Gibbons	acc.
	1m"	7/11	Boot Rock Overlook	Gabriel Markoff	acc.
	1m*	7/19	Boot Rock Overlook	Bill Rowe	acc.
*Texas Review Species: Reports and photos (Gibbons) to TBRC:Lockwood. Pending review.					
Olive-sided Flycatcher	2	6/01	Boot Springs	Brian Gibbons	rare
Black-capped Vireo	1m	7/12	Lower Window Tr.	Jeff Taylor	rare
	1m	7/18	Basin Rd switchbacks	Bill Rowe	rare
Warbling vireo	1	7/20	Cottonwood Camp.	Bill Rowe	spo.
Carolina wren	1	6/01	Boot Canyon	Brian Gibbons	rare
	1	7/20	Santa Elena Cyn.	Bill Rowe	rare
Eastern bluebird	1f	7/20	Cottonwood Camp.	Bill Rowe	acc.
American robin	1	6/01	Boot Spring	Brian Gibbons	rare

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Black & White Warbler	1	7/19	Laguna Meadow	Bill Rowe	rare
Northern Waterthrush	1	7/08	Boot Springs	Bill Lindemann	?sum.
Wilson's warbler	3	6/01	Boot Canyon	Brian Gibbons	late
Painted redstart	4*	6/01	Boot Canyon	Brian Gibbons	spo.
	1	6/12	Boot Canyon	David Elkowitz	spo.
	11**	7/02	Boot Canyon	Brian Gibbons	spo.
	1	7/13	Boot Canyon	Jeff Taylor	apo.
	1	7/19	Boot Spring	Bill Rowe	spo.
*2 adults and 2 juveniles **2 juveniles					
Dickcissel	1	7/03	Rio Grande Vill.	Brian Gibbons	early
Red crossbill	1	6/01	Boot Spring	Brian Gibbons	?sum

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
AUGUST - NOVEMBER 2005

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period August 1 - November 30. I've compiled only those observations for species which are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist. A "?fall" indicates a species which is documented for the park but not in the fall season.

This fall season in the Big Bend region was on again, off again as far as precipitation was concerned, and follows the year-long trend towards a closer to average annual rainfall pattern. August brought high temperatures and relatively abundant rainfall. September remained warm but had a significant decline in precipitation. October rebounded with several periods of good rain and continued warm temperatures. November was delightful in terms of mild temperatures, but was completely dry for the entire month. A comparison of current year to date precipitation with year-to-date totals through November 2004 (+ or -) documents the return to average after two exceptionally wet years. Panther Junction; 12.32" (-9.78"), Chisos Basin; 12.75" (-15.08"), Rio Grande Village; 7.58" (-5.54"), Castolon; 9.28" (-7.71"), Persimmon Gap 8.26" (-11.53").

August was the month for review species in Big Bend, with a male **white-eared hummingbird** lingering in the Boot Canyon area of the Chisos Mountains into the first weeks of the month. Five reports of male or female white-ears were submitted during the summer (from 06/02 to 07/19), with Brian Gibbon's June 02 report and photographs providing sufficient documentation for TBRC acceptance. This marks the third year in a row that this review species has been successfully documented in the Chisos Mountains, and makes one wonder if the white-ears' presence is in response to the wetter than normal conditions over that time frame, or if we are witnessing a range expansion. Three August reports of **red-faced warbler** in Boot Canyon (including photographs by Barber, Lasley and Lockwood) mark the fifth early fall season in a row that this review species has been successfully documented in the park. More intriguing were two reports over a two day period of a red-faced warbler at campsite 91 in the Rio Grande Village Campground. The location is out of the expected habitat for this montane species, but the individual bird was seen well by a group of birders. No photographs were provided, but a written report has been submitted to the TBRC. Finally, a female **Costa's hummingbird** was reported at Panther Junction in mid-October and is under review by the TBRC. The last accepted report of this review species was a male at Panther Junction in early February, 2004. Not documented this season were two reports of male Costa's outside the park at residential feeders in Terlingua.

Other highlights for the season include a late August observation of a male Montezuma quail on the South Rim of the Chisos, continuing the spate of late spring and summer observations that confirmed the return of this rare species to Big Bend National Park after years of no sightings. At this writing, a management burn is being conducted along the southeast rim of the Chisos that may indirectly benefit this little quail. Another interesting report came at the end of the reporting period, when River Ranger Marcos Paredes and veteran peregrine/Aplomado falcon researcher Betty Moore observed a female (or immature) anhinga in the Lower Canyons stretch of the Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River. Currently listed as hypothetical, this usually tropical species has only been reported twice before, both from the same general area in the winter and early spring. Other birds of note included a snow goose on the same Lower Canyons patrol, and an immature Ross's goose observed by River Ranger Michael Ryan in Boquillas canyon, Lasley's lone upland sandpiper along the road to Rio Grande Village, a male Williamson's sapsucker (photographed) on the Pinnacles Trail, a great-crested flycatcher (photographed) at Paint Gap, a flurry of Grace's warblers in the Chisos in August and a very late male hooded warbler at Daniel's Ranch.

PARK

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Snow goose	1	11/29	Lower Canyons Rio Grande W&S	Marcos Paredes	rare
Ross's goose	1imm	11/14?	Boquillas Canyon	Michael Ryan	?fall
Wild turkey*	1	08/15	RGV-Daniels Rch	Jeff Sartain	rare
	3	10/05	MP 7 Rte 12 (RGV)	Mark Flippo	rare
*Rare in park outside of Cottonwood Campground.					
Montezuma quail	1m	08/21	South Rim-Chisos	Dan Leavitt	acc.
Anhinga*	1	11/30	Lower Cyns Near Dryden	Betty Moore Marcos Paredes	?fall
*Hypothetical for spring and winter. Waiting for details.					
Least grebe	2	10/26	RGV-Nature Trail	Erika Wilson	acc.
Least bittern	1	08/150	RGV-Nature Trail	Don Carrell	rare
White-faced ibis	1	08/14	RGV-Nature Trail	Stephen & Liz Jones	rare
Harris's Hawk	1	10/14	Hwy 118 ~5miles N. of Study Butte	Jim & Barb Hines	rare
Broad-winged hawk	1	10/09	Terlingua Creek	Mark Flippo	rare
Common black-hawk	1	08/25	RGV-nest site	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	09/20	RGV-Daniels Rch.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	09/26	RGV-Store	Bruce Purdy	rare
Upland sandpiper	1	08/26	MP 14 Rte 12(RGV)	Greg Lasley	rare
Burrowing owl	1	10/07	Mule Ears turnoff	Elise SansSouci	rare
	1	10/19	Hart Ranch Road	Jim & Barb Haines	rare
White-eared hum.*	1m	08/10	Boot Cyn Trail	Lynn Barber	acc
*Texas review species: report to TBRC:Lockwood Pending review					
Anna's Hummingbird	2m,f	10/08-11/30	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
	1imm	10/09-11/30	Terlingua Creek	Kym Beckwith, Mark Flippo	rare
Costa's Hummingbird*	1f	10/01-02	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	acc
*Texas Review Species: Report to TBRC:Lockwood. Pending review.					

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Rufous hummingbird	1f	10/02	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	late
Green kingfisher	1f	10/05	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
	1f	10/06	RGV-Nature Trail	David Elkowitz	rare
	1m	11/06	RGV-Nature Trail	Dan Leavitt	rare
	1m	11/12	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
Williamson's Sapsucker	1m	10/11	Pinnacles Tr. (near water tank)	Adrian Webb	spo.
Hammond's Flycatcher	1	09/18	Juniper Flats	Eric Haskell	rare
Great-crested Flycatcher	1	09/18	Paint Gap #2	Eric Haskell	acc.
Black-capped vireo	1m	08/01	Window Trail	Glenn Cureton	rare
	1m	08/21	Window Trail	Madeline Averett	rare
	1m	09/12	South Rim	Richard Wolinski	rare
Sage thrasher	4	11/13	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	spo.
Grace's warbler	5	08/05-07	Chisos Mtns	Mark Lockwood	rare
	1	08/28	Boot Canyon	Greg Lasley	rare
Hooded warbler	1m	11/12	RGV-Daniels Rch	Mark Flippo	acc.
Red-faced warbler*	1	08/06	Boot Canyon	Mark Lockwood	spo.
	1	08/09	Boot Canyon	Lynn Barber	spo.
	1	08/13	RGV Camp Site 91	Jim Hines, Greg & Marcy Brazaitis	spo.
	1	08/14	RGV Camp Site 91	Stephen & Liz Jones	spo.
	1	08/28	Boot Canyon	Greg Lasley, Alex & Linda McMahan	spo.
*Texas Review Species: reports to TBRC:Lockwood Pending review					
Painted redstart	10	08/06-07	Boot Canyon	Mark Lockwood	spo.
	4	08/12-13	Boot Canyon	Mark Flippo	spo.
Grasshopper Sparrow	2	10/09	Terlingua Creek	Kym Beckwith Mark Flippo	rare
Common grackle	2m	11/06	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	acc.

Great-tailed
Grackle

2(m,f) 10/21

Panther Junction Dan Leavitt

?fall